

What is bidah?

Linguistically bid'ah (innovation) means 'a newly invented matter'. The Sharee'ah definition of bid'ah is: "A newly invented way [beliefs or action] in the religion, in imitation of the Sharee'ah (prescribed Law), by which nearness to Allaah is sought, [but] not being supported by any authentic proof - neither in its foundations, nor in the manner in which it is performed." Al-I'tisaam of ash-Shaatibee (1/37).

The Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) said: "Every innovation is misguidance and going astray" Reported by Abu Daawood (no. 4607), at-Tirmidhee (no. 2676) and it is saheeh. Ibn Hajr authenticated it Takhreej Ahaadeeth Ibn ul-Haajib (1/137).

And he (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) also said: "... and every innovation is misguidance and all misguidance is in the Hellfire." Reported by an-Nasaa'ee (1/224) from Jaabir bin Abdullaah and it is saheeh as declared by Shaikh ul-Islaam Ibn Taymiyyah in Majmoo' ul-Fataawaa (3/58).

The Messenger (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) also warned against the People of Innovation, from befriending, supporting or taking from them saying: "Whoever innovates or accommodates an innovator then upon him is the curse of Allaah, His Angels and the whole of mankind." Reported by Bukhaaree (12/41) and Muslim (9/140)

Bidah in the religious context means introducing new practices, rituals or rules for worship or making changes in the actual ones, introducing or changing principles in faith, making lawful things unlawful and making unlawful things lawful.

innovation within the religion is seen as a sin in Islam.

Prophet Muhammad stated as such:

"Whoever innovates something in this matter of ours [i.e., Islam] that is not a part of it, will have it rejected." (Bukhari 2550, Muslim 1718)

In addition, the Quran states:

"..This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion." (5:3)

Jabir ibn Abdullah reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, would praise Allah in his sermon as He deserves to be praised and then he would say, **"Whoever Allah guides, no one can lead him astray. Whoever Allah sends astray, no one can guide him. The truest word is the Book of Allah and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad. The most evil matters are those that are newly invented, for every newly invented matter is an innovation and every innovation is misguidance and every misguidance is in the Hellfire."** Source: Sunan An-Nasa'i 1578

Grade: [Sahih](#) (authentic) according to Al-Albani

Al-Haafiz Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali (may Allah have mercy on him) gave a comprehensive definition of bid'ah (innovation) when he said:

If anyone introduces something new and describes it as part of religion, when it has no basis at all in religion, then it is misguidance and it has nothing to do with religion.

Jaami' al-'Uloom wa al-Hukam (2/128)